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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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Nunc adhibe puro
Pectore verba, puer, nunc te melioribus offer.— HOR.

Tendere ad Indos
Auroramque ſequi.—— VIRG.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM,

SIR,

AMONG the many reaſons that were urged againſt entering into the preſent war, and the various clamours that have been raiſed ſince the commencement of hoſtilities, I do not find anybody has conſidered the importance of a peace with France, in regard to the education of our young nobility: and I cannot but think our miniſters would have been leſs haſty in their meaſures, had they paid proper attention to an object of ſo great moment.

THIS

THIS overſight is the more ſurpriſing, as the dangers attending heirs apparent at home, and the neceſſity of travel from the age of ſeventeen to twenty-one, have long been notorious to all the world. Who would truſt a ſon in the way of pedantry and tobacco, party and elections, fox hounds and Newmarket; of the bewitching glances that lurk beneath a pompadour hat at Ranelagh, or the unadorned, but not leſs dangerous charms of the curate's daughter near the manſion ſeat? On the other ſide, who is not aware that, abroad, national prejudices are deſtroyed, the mind is opened, the taſte refined, the perſon improved? And what muſt be a farther conſolation to parents, is, that the habits and manners contracted by young gentlemen in their travels, are likely to remain with them all their lives after. It ſeldom happens that the Paris pump and Lyon's velvet give place to the tight boot and ſhort ſkirt; or that a man accuſtomed to the elegance and loll of a *vis à vis*, with cuſhions of down within, and the varniſh of Martin without, is ſo abſurd at his return, as to trot ten miles before day in a dreary winter morning, and paſs the hours due to hazard or a miſtreſs, on the ſide of a bleak cover, ſhivering in expectation of a fox.

As it is far from my intention to ſtir up a clamour againſt the adviſers of this war, I ſhall not enter farther into a diſcuſſion of the advantages of a foreign, or the evils of a domeſtic education, but haſten to my ſcheme for the improvement of youth, in ſpite of our enemies; the firſt hint of which aroſe accidentally in converſation with a friend, at whoſe houſe in the country I ſpent ſome days laſt month.

WE were walking in a park, decorated with all the variety of Aſiatic ornament, which at preſent ſo generally prevails among improvers of taſte; when this gentleman, who is a leading man of that claſs, as well as a thorough zealot in the modern ſyſtem of education, took occaſion to conſult me in regard to the diſpoſal of his eldeſt ſon; a youth about ſixteen years of age, heir to a very large fortune, and at preſent at one of our univerſities. My friend, I found, was very uneaſy leſt he

he ſhould contract the ruſt of the college, and moſt pathetically lamented his ill fortune that the doors of France ſhould be ſo critically ſhut againſt a lad formed by nature for all the accompliſhments which ſo eminently diſtinguiſh that polite nation.

In reflecting upon the good man's embarraſſment, and admiring the ſeveral temples, bridges, and other edifices of Chineſe architecture which ſurrounded me, I was led to conſider whether to ſend our ſons to Pekin inſtead of Paris, would not better anſwer all purpoſes of travel. And though you may ſtart, as did my friend, at the firſt view of this propoſal, I doubt not, Mr. Fitz-Adam, but upon deliberation you will agree with me in many of the circumſtances that I think muſt render ſuch a progreſs preferable to the other, more entertaining to the young gentlemen themſelves, more ſuitable to the intentions of their parents and guardians, and more beneficial to their country.

Among the many conſiderations which immediately occurred to me upon this ſubject, I ſhall beg leave principally to obſerve, that the manufactures of China, which have hitherto reached us, bear the preference to moſt of our own of the ſame kinds, in ſpite of European pride: and I am perſuaded thoſe politer arts, which are the great objects of travel, are in a degree of excellence, well worthy our notice, among the ingenious people of that country, though they have hitherto made their way to us ſlowly and imperfectly, for want of proper travellers. The merchant and the miſſionary (almoſt the only viſitors of ſo diſtant a region) attend merely to thoſe obſervations which regard the commerce and religion of their nation and ſect; the views of the one are too confined, and of the other generally too enthuſiaſtic to produce the good effects which would accrue from the enquiries of men of more enlarged ideas, and unprejudiced ſentiments. The preſent juncture ſeems marked by the good genius of this iſle for the moſt important diſcoveries. How many young men of faſhion might be picked out, whom no one could ſuſpect of prejudices either in favour of trade or religion! and ſurely a mettled fellow could not heſitate in his choice between this route and the old

old beaten one of France and Italy; where from a Calais landlord, to a Neapolitan princeſs, there is a ſameneſs of adventure that is become extremely irkſome to a polite circle in the recital. A traveller will be greatly diſappointed who fancies the tour of Europe will entitle him to attention at Arthur's or an aſſembly. Alas! after four years of expence, danger and fatigue, if he expects auditors, he muſt have recourſe to his tenants in the country, or ſeek them about four o'clock on a bench in St. James's park. On the contrary, let us ſuppoſe a young nobleman juſt arrived with a dreſs and equipage *à la Chinoiſe*, what a curioſity would be excited in the town! what entertainment, what admiration would it afford! What triumph would he feel in entering a route, to ſee at his approach the lover riſe from beneath the hoop on the ſettee, the dowager quit her cards, and all

With greedy ears devour up his diſcourſe!

It would be a ſevere blow to the French, Mr. Fitz-Adam, ſhould the Chineſe ſucceed to the empire of taſte; and it is worthy remark, as I hinted above, and as others of your correſpondents have done before, what advances they daily make towards it. Without doors, from the ſeats of our dukes, to the ſhops of our haberdaſhers, all is Chineſe; and in moſt places within (at leaſt where that ſex which ought always to have the lead in elegance is concerned) Raphael and Titian give place to the more pleaſing maſters of Surat and Japan. Should their dreſs and cookery become as faſhionable as their architecture and painting, adieu the moſt flouriſhing commerce of France: and I ſee no reaſon why they ſhould not, if introduced by proper perſons. Novelty is the ſoul of both, and quickneſs of invention the ſureſt recommendation to the cook, as well as the taylor. For my own part I have commiſſioned my two nephews, who are actually preparing for their voyage next ſpring, to bring over one of the greateſt men they can find in each of theſe capacities; and I flatter myſelf that *their* dreſs and *my* table will give the taſte to the whole town. I have likewiſe deſired theſe young gentlemen to contract for the beſt dancers now in Aſia, whether monkeys or men, and propoſe to oblige the managers of both theatres with a Chineſe ballet, that I think will engage to them the ſupport of the whole ſociety of Anti-Gallicans.

If any young nobleman can want yet further encouragement for this undertaking, let him conſider how much greater ſcope there is to ſhew his genius in the conſtruction of a veſſel, than in that of a poſt-chaiſe; not to mention the many conveniencies and comforts he will have about him, which a land carriage cannot afford: for inſtance, his cook, his toad-eater, his ſet at Whiſt, and, if he pleaſes, his girl: for, by the way, it would be cruel in a parent to deny a ſon, embarked on ſo uſeful a progreſs, any of thoſe amuſements or reſources ſo generally eſteemed innocent in other travels, and which indeed I have ſeldom heard that the moſt ſcrupulous governor objected to in France or Italy. It is poſſible that the article of ſea-ſickneſs may alarm the tenderneſs of ſome mothers; but what is it more than the qualms of claret? and a youth who has ſhewn any ſpirit at college, cannot have much to apprehend from that complaint.

And here, Mr. Fitz-Adam, I cannot forbear hinting to our patriots of what ſervice ſuch a ſyſtem of education would prove to our marine, the great bulwark of the nation. I am perſuaded it would turn out as good a nurſery for ſailors as the herring fiſhery: and what a reſource would it be in any ſudden emergency (like the preſent for example) if the numerous retinues of the gay and great were able to go to a top-maſt head! A ſet of fellows, who now ſerve only to excite the contempt or indignation of their induſtrious countrymen, would become uſeful members, and be regarded as a hidden ſtrength of the ſtate. Who knows but ſome of the young gentlemen themſelves might take a more particular fancy to a blue uniform than to a red one? and I apprehend it would as ſoon entitle them to the eſteem of their country, and not be leſs becoming in the eyes of the ladies.

But the point which will be thought of the moſt importance by your ſerious readers, is ſtill behind. It has been remarked of late years (I fear with ſome truth) that the majority of our young travellers return home entirely diveſted of the religion of their country, without having acquired any new one in it's place. Now